



## **News Release**

For Immediate Release

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### **State Seeking Training Providers for \$2 Million Major Moves Minority Training Program**

INDIANAPOLIS (July 10, 2006) – The Indiana Department of Workforce Development today released a request for proposals seeking bids from training providers to develop pre-apprenticeship programs for minorities in the construction trade industry.

The Major Opportunities program, part of Governor Mitch Daniels Major Moves initiative, was approved by the Indiana General Assembly in March. The training program will spend up to \$2 million in state funds each year for the next six years to fund pre-apprenticeship programs for minorities in the building and construction industries.

“This program seeks to increase the numbers of qualified African-Americans and Hispanics working in the building and construction trades industries,” said Ron Stiver, commissioner of the Department of Workforce Development. “While these two groups comprise a substantial portion of the nation’s workforce, they have long been under-represented in this industry. Major Opportunities is designed to address this under-representation through focused training programs.”

“This program represents a serious commitment by the state of Indiana to ensure that more minorities are working in the building trades,” said state Sen. Earline Rogers (D-Gary). Rogers was the architect of the minority training legislation.

“We know that there will be thousands of new construction jobs created in Indiana over the next ten years,” said state Sen. Glenn Howard (D-Indianapolis). “This program will help train Indiana African-Americans, Hispanics, and other minorities for these jobs. It will also help ensure that these jobs are filled by Indiana residents.”

The state’s request for proposals targets the metropolitan areas of, Gary/East Chicago Evansville, Fort Wayne, Indianapolis, and South Bend/Elkhart, and requires that the training and worksites be in one or more of the major metropolitan areas. The pre-apprenticeship programs must result in successful placement and persistence of graduates in construction apprenticeships, the placement of candidates into entry-level jobs, and the elevation of educational and skill levels of program participants.

Bids are due in to the state on August 14, 2006, with an announcement of recipients targeted for early September. Training will begin in early October.

The RFP is available online at <http://www.in.gov/idoa/proc/bids/rfp-7-3/rfp-7-3.pdf>

The Indiana Department of Workforce Development is charged with continually improving the Hoosier workforce by assisting companies to create new jobs and improve worker skills. The agency offers a variety of training and educational grants, partners with Indiana's 26 WorkOne Centers, administers the unemployment insurance system, provides labor market information, assists employers with preparing workers for layoffs and closures and operates a statewide job placement service.